Indian in Pakistan Jail

1852. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a person by name Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Yadav belonging to Ahmedabad had been lodged in Kot Lakhpat Jail in Pakistan for nearly 13 years, being falsely accused by Pakistan, of being an Indian spy and who is being physically tortured by Pakistan Jail Authorities; and

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of taking immediate necessary action in this regard, to render proper justice to Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Yadav?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Shri Kuldeep Kumar Yadav s/o Shri Nanak Chand R/o A-49, Gopal Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat is a convicted prisoner lodged at Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, Pakistan since 22/23 June, 1994. He was sentenced in December, 1996 to 25 years imprisonment on charges of spying.

A consular team from the High Commission of India in Islamabad met him on 18 July, 2006. During meetings the High Commission officials had with Shri Yadav, he did not complain of having been subjected to torture.

Government have been consistently raising the Government of Pakistan the issue of regular consular access and repatriation of Indian prisoners in Pakistan jails. During the visit of the External Affairs Minister of Islamabad is January, 2007, a decision was taken to establish a Committee on Prisoners comprising four retired judges of the superior judiciary from each country to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms.

Funds for Haj pilgrims

1853. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is funding Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last 3 years;

(c) whether this amount is sufficient;

(d) if so, the comments of Government thereon; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase the budget for Haj pilgrims in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The Government provide subsidy to the arilines for air transportation for Haj pilgrimage. For efficient management and supervision of Haj arrangements, a large contingent of seasonal local staff, supervisors, data entry operators, drivers and messengers is appointed by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah on temporary basis. In addition, Doctors, Nurses and other para-medical staff, Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants are sent from India on short-term deputation to Saudi Arabia. A hospital in Makkah and branch offices-cum-dispensaries in Makkah and Madina are set up during Haj period for Haj pilgrims. Medicines provided at these dispensaries and hospital are supplied from

India and procured locally. The Government provide adequate funds every year for these requirements. The expenditure incurred by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in connection with Haj arrangements and subsidy provided for air transportation for Haj pilgrimage during the last three years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure incurred by Ministry of External Affairs	Year	Subsidy (Provisional)
2004-05	Rs. 21,18,30,030	Haj 2005	Rs. 198 crores
2005-06	Rs. 24,87,75,665	Haj 2006	Rs. 290 crores
2006-07	Rs. 23,35,42,728	Haj 2006-II	Rs. 367 crores

Manual scavenging

1854. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite Planning Commission's commitment to eradicate manual scavenging totally from the country by 2007, there are still more than 90,000 scavengers who are to be liberated from this dehumanizing practice;

(b) whether Government has completed the revision of guidelines on Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme based on inputs received from States narrating the difficulties in its implementations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and likely deadline for eradication of manual scavenging in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on the suggestions received from the Planning Commission, State Governments and various stake holders, revision of guidelines of the ILCS Scheme is under consideration of the Government. Since ILCS is a demand driven scheme, all efforts will be made to convert the existing dry latrines into water seal toilets in a time bound manner.

Survey by NBO on housing crisis

1855. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per survey conducted by National Building Organisation (NBO) and her Ministry, the country needs 24.71 million homes to solve its housing crisis, and the housing shortage could touch 26.50 million in another five years;

(b) whether her Ministry has asked State Government and has written to the Chief Secretaries to regulate untrammelled growth of urban areas and prepare a comprehensive